

August 23, 2007

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Renevar Gulch Stream Restoration and Culvert Replacement Project  
(WDID# 1B07106WNSO)

Sonoma County

On July 16, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Roger Sternberg, on behalf of the Estate of John Max, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Renevar Gulch Stream Restoration and Culvert Replacement Project. The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the State associated with Renevar Gulch, a tributary to Palmer Creek sub-area No. 114.24 and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project is located at about 4600 Mill Creek Road, Healdsburg, Sonoma County, (APN No. 110-060-069). The latitude and longitude is 38.57125°N and -123.00689°W. The purpose of the project is the replacement of a failed culvert with a culvert that is placed on the streambed and which has a capacity to handle flows from a 100-year storm event. The existing culvert at the ranch road crossing of Renevar Gulch appears to have caused substantial channel erosion and incision downstream of the crossing. Further collapse of the culvert may lead to further incision upstream. The replacement of this culvert also precedes the filing of a Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) on this 2,300 acre property. The NTMP is currently being formulated and applications will be filed with the appropriate agencies in the future.

The project is the replacement of an existing 36 inch by 30 foot culvert at an existing driveway fill crossing the upper reaches of Renevar Gulch. A backhoe will excavate the existing driveway embankment at the culvert location, remove the existing 36 inch by 30 foot culvert, install a new 48 inch by 80 foot culvert at grade of stream bed with a 9 inch camber, and backfill. Any excavated soils not used for backfill, will be hauled to a site where sediment delivery to creeks will not occur. 2-3 foot loose rip rap armoring at both ends of culvert will be used to the minimum extent necessary to control erosion and not exceed an area of 18 feet by 14 feet on either end. A rock dissipater will be constructed 30' upstream to catch perched fills and below the culvert to stabilize stream channel and prevent scouring. Road dips will be installed below and above the culvert to direct water into the stream in case of culvert plugging and road flooding. Disturbed areas of the driveway embankment not covered by rip-rap will be covered by erosion control matting, staked with steel spikes every 18", and hydro-seeded with native grasses. Five big leaf maples will be planted at the crossing of Renevar Gulch or in nearby exposed areas along Renevar Gulch. Planting will reduce sediment delivery to the creek and provide creek shading. Future monitoring, maintenance and management of the site after construction are the responsibility of the landowner. An 85% survival rate of all proposed plant species after five years will be implemented. Yearly monitoring reports will be submitted detailing replanting plan status, and will include photographs from designated photo points. Work will be performed with an excavator and a dump truck

from the existing driveway. No equipment will enter the stream bed. Approximately 7 cubic yards of perched fills currently delivering sediment to the creek will be removed and hauled to a site where sediment delivery will not enter creeks. Disturbance of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete operations. The disturbed portions of any stream channel and adjacent areas shall be restored to as near their original condition as possible.

Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion. Work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season. Other BMPs include: installation of construction barrier fencing to preclude equipment entry into sensitive areas, installation of silt fencing or fiber rolls to prevent sediment loss from immediate work area, topsoil salvage and reapplication, and seeding and mulching.

The Renevar Gulch Stream Restoration and Culvert Replacement Project is scheduled to begin and end in Fall 2007. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at [sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov), or Darren Bradford at (707) 576-2466, [dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov), within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.